

Grace and peace!  
Wherever you are on  
your faith  
journey, you are  
welcome here. If you  
are looking for a  
church home, we invite  
you to join us in  
serving and  
worshiping God and  
enjoying fellowship  
together. Please seek  
out, call or email a  
pastor, or speak to the  
elder who stands at the  
front of the sanctuary  
following each  
worship service. She or  
he will arrange for you  
to meet with the  
Session and be  
received into  
membership. All who  
follow Jesus Christ  
may become  
a member.

**Children are welcome  
in all worship services  
here.** We are aware  
that young children  
may find it challenging  
to participate in the  
entire service. So,  
during the 11 a.m. ser-  
vice, children 5 years  
and younger are  
invited to the nursery  
right after "Passing the  
Peace."

*Beginning at 8:30 am child-  
care is available for in-  
fants – 5-year-olds on the  
Children's Hall in Rooms  
101, 102, & 103.*



T Coil  
LOOP  
Technology  
available.



## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, January 8, 2017  
Baptism of the Lord  
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

### Preparation for Worship

"To be baptized is to be identified with, incorporated into that which Jesus did when he went down into the waters of Jordan as one of a company of sin-burdened men and women and so inaugurated a mission which would lead him through his great encounter with the principalities and powers to its victorious climax in the cross. To be baptized is to be incorporated into the dying of Jesus so as to become a participant in his risen life, and so to share his ongoing mission to the world. It is to be baptized into his mission."

~Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*

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*Claimed by the Triune God, we worship only God and are called by the Holy Spirit to share  
the boundary-breaking love of Christ in our life together, in the heart of Asheville, and in the whole world.*

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## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE                      When Jesus Came to Jordan                      Ennis Fruhauf

PRAYER OF THE DAY

\* HYMN 484                      Out of Deep, Unordered Water                      RUSTINGTON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.  
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.  
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another;  
we allow the past to hold us hostage.**

**In your loving kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.  
Remind us of the promises you make in baptism  
so that we may rise to new life,  
and live together in grace.**

*Silent Confession*

RESPONSE (*Music found in Hymn #490*)                      BEACH SPRING

**Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,  
Newborn creatures of your womb.  
Number us among your people,  
Raised like Christ from death and tomb.  
Weave us garments bright and sparkling;  
Compass us with love and light.  
Fill, anoint us; send your Spirit,  
Holy dove and heart's delight.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE (*Music found in Hymn #492*)                      YOU BELONG TO CHRIST

**You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (Repeat)**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (*11:00 a.m.*)

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

(11:00 a.m.) During the singing of the hymn, children are invited to come forward to the chancel for the Children's Moment.



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* HYMN 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

### REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

#### \* PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God is not only the giver of life,  
but the giver of new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection.  
**Therefore, with generous hearts,  
let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us  
in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.**

#### OFFERING

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

John Foley

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price,  
except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life,  
except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.  
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:  
All who labor without rest. How can your soul find rest,  
except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:  
Bring the children without might. Easy the load and light:  
come to the Lord.

*The music is found in  
hymn 490.*

\* DOXOLOGY

BEACH SPRING

**O how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
Water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (8:45 a.m.)

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

\* HYMN 485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

We Know That Christ Is Raised

*\* indicates stand as able*

*The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and  
in loving memory of Jill Rowe Abernethy, given by the Rowe & Williams Families.*

The Session has called a congregational meeting to approve the Terms of Call  
for installed pastors in the Sanctuary at 10:40 a.m. this morning.

PERSONS ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Liturgist: *Michael Poulos*

Musicians: *Jeremy Roberts - Organist, Kim Thomas - Cantor, Chancel Choir,  
Barbara Love - French Horn*

## WORSHIP

### January 11 Epiphany of the Lord Worship Service

Dinner served 5:30 pm -6:10pm, Fellowship Hall, No Reservations Necessary  
Adults \$8, children and youth no charge

The Christmas season concludes on January 6, Epiphany of the Lord, which falls on a Friday in 2017. Following dinner and fellowship together at tables we will gather in the sanctuary for worship. Epiphany means “manifestation,” and Epiphany worship celebrates the manifestation of God in the birth of Jesus Christ, expressed in the symbol of the star and the journey of the Magi. Our Epiphany service is a Communion service, and it also will include our annual ritual of selecting a “star word” for the coming year.



**SIGN UP to participate in worship:** We hope you will sign up to share in worship as a liturgist or to offer a prayer one Sunday. The pastors will be in touch with you beforehand to give you assistance. Use our link from the website: <https://www.fpcasheville.org/sign-up-form> which connects to the SignUp.com invitation.

## STUDY

### ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT (9:45 a.m. Sunday morning)

#### January 8 – Mission Ministry in China (Gardner Fellowship Hall)

Come learn about Leslie Doyle’s mission experiences volunteering with a Chinese Orphanage Christian Ministry. Her daughter Shelby is also spending two years in china teaching English while engaged in mission ministry. *Teacher: Leslie Doyle*



#### January 15 – Confronting Domestic Violence (Gardner Fellowship Hall)

Helpmate of Asheville works with our community to eliminate abuse and fear by providing safety, shelter, and support for people who have been victimized by domestic violence. Helpmate provides individual and group counseling; help in building a safe, stable future; court advocacy; training of professionals and community leaders; preventative education for at-risk groups. *Teacher: Guests from Helpmate*



### PW Bible Study 10:30-11:45am “Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes” (Room 112)

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 9, February 6, March 6

Judy Siker explores answers to the question, “Who is Jesus through the lenses of Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, the Abrahamic Faiths, and contemporary cultural interpretations. *Instructor: Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson*

Men & women are invited to join this exciting opportunity for study and reflection, regardless of circle participation. Study book \$8.00.

### Time Out for Everyone – Meets weekly / 10:15am – 12:15 in the Widman Room across from the library

All Folks of various ages and stages of life are invited, Childcare is available if needed; RSVP/ Contact Nancy McNeill 253-1431 ext.126 for questions or more information.

January Meeting Dates: 5, 12, 19, 26

## CONNECT

**Memory Loss Support Group Meeting Today** Families with members experiencing memory loss will meet for support and discussion after 11am worship today. The meetings will begin at 12:30 p.m. and conclude at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112. Those attending are invited to pick up a cup of coffee and join the group. Earl Thompson and Marge Marsh will convene the groups.

**Art Gallery News:** Thank you to everyone who participated; hopefully you found it a meaningful way to celebrate Advent. The next exhibit will feature work from two local organizations that use art as a way to reach specific segments of our society. Rise Up! Studio is a project of the BeLoved House, giving people who are homeless or have low incomes the space and supplies to create and sell art. Open Hearts Art Center is an arts program that provides unique opportunities for differently abled adults to express themselves. *Be Loved*

**Saturday Sanctuary continues each week** – During the fall and winter months, we open our fellowship hall on Saturday afternoon. During the hours of 12:30-3:30 p.m., we offer a warm facility, serve a healthy lunch, enjoy movies & popcorn, provide board games & prayer cards - all aimed at creating a safe place to be community with our downtown neighbors. Through this ministry of hospitality we believe we experience the boundary-breaking love of God in real ways! Please check your calendar and see when you can join us as a volunteer. Use the form on the website, or email [satsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:satsanctuary@gmail.com).



**Women's Dinner Out:** All women, members & visitors are invited to share food and fellowship at Char Bar 7 in Gerber Village on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. RSVP by calling the church office or sign up in the Foyer.

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Please use the Care Line phone number, email or pew cards to communicate confidentially with the pastors if you would like to share concerns or request support. Phone and email messages will reach one of our pastors at any time. If you have scheduled a hospitalization, please let us know as soon as possible.

**(828-222-0113/ [careline@fpcasheville.org](mailto:careline@fpcasheville.org))**



Our Partners in Ministry at 40 Church



Child Care Center  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson, Pastor/Head of Staff x. 112 [pjohnson@fpcasheville.org](mailto:pjohnson@fpcasheville.org)  
Rev. Michael Poulos, Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission x. 125 [mpoulos@fpcasheville.org](mailto:mpoulos@fpcasheville.org)  
Rev. Shannon Spencer, Adjunct Pastor for Mission Engagement  
Nancy McNeill, Director of Faith Development x. 126 [nmcneill@fpcasheville.org](mailto:nmcneill@fpcasheville.org)  
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Dupree Davis, Property Manager x. 117 [ddavis@fpcasheville.org](mailto:ddavis@fpcasheville.org)  
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